

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-13 and 16-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 12 are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied references. No new matter is added.

I. Amendments to the Specification

By this Amendment, the specification is amended to change "500 e" to "50 Oe" in paragraph [0069] of the specification as filed. No new matter is added in that "500 e" is an obvious typographical error because "Oe", not "e" is the correct units. Also see the priority application.

II. Claim Rejections

The Office Action (i) rejects claims 1-2 and 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,358,432 to Tomono et al. (Tomono) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0155548 to Ozawa et al. (Ozawa); and (ii) rejects claims 12-13 and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Japanese Patent Publication No. 01-86504 to Narumiya in view of Ozawa. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

A. Claimed Subject Matter and Preliminary Remarks regarding Ozawa

The claimed subject matter is directed to a magnetic core that can be easily formed and that is able to effectively suppress magnetic field leakage by preventing energy loss through heating caused by an eddy current. This is achieved by using a solidified hydraulic composition as a base material. This material can be formed without disarranging the dispersed state of the magnetic particles.

In comparison, Ozawa is directed to a permanent magnet formed from magnetic powder. The magnetic powder of Ozawa enables moldability, heat resistance, corrosion resistance, and high strength. The permanent magnet of Ozawa, however, has a magnetic force that is extremely strong, 7 kOe (kilo-oersteds) or more (paragraph [0055]). As a result

of the magnetic strength of Ozawa's magnet, the magnet would generate heat if used as a magnetic core and would eventually burn off the surrounding coil of the magnet. One of ordinary skill in the art would have known this and would thus not have considered the magnet of Ozawa as a candidate for use as a magnetic core.

B. Tomono in view of Ozawa

The proposed combination of Tomono and Ozawa is improper, and, even if the references are combined as proposed, the proposed combination fails to result in the claimed features of independent claim 1.

Tomono discloses an inductor element 1 including a cylindrical core 2 supporting a coiled winding 3 (Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 21-25). The cylindrical core 2 is disclosed as comprising a ferrite powder dispersed in a resin (col. 2, lines 53-57). This material is suitable for a high frequency inductor (col. 2, lines 54-55).

Regarding independent claim 1, as discussed above, the extreme strength of the permanent magnet of Ozawa, 7 kOe or higher, would result in any windings being eventually burned off. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that Ozawa's magnet is uncombinable with the inductor element 1 of Tomono. However, even if the proposed combination would be made, the proposed combination fails to disclose magnetic particles having a coercive force of no more than 50 Oe as claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

C. Narumiya in view of Ozawa

The proposed combination of Narumiya and Ozawa is improper, and, even if the references are combined as proposed, the proposed combination fails to result in the claimed features of independent claim 12.

Narumiya discloses dispersing magnetic powder in an organic binder to produce a magnetic shielding material (Abstract) and use of magnetic particles and resin as a coating or paint (Constitution).

Regarding independent claim 12, As discussed above, Ozawa has an extremely strong magnetic force of 7 kOe or more. Such a strong magnet would not be suitable for use as a magnetic shielding material. One of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that use of Ozawa's permanent magnet to shield the magnetic field from the magnetic core would render the purpose of the magnetic shield unsuitable for its intended use. For example, Ozawa's magnet, when used as a magnetic shield, would instead produce much greater magnetic fields than the magnetic shield being shielded. Further, even if Ozawa's magnet is combined with the material of Narumiya, the proposed combination fails to disclose magnetic particles having a coercive force of no more than 50 Oe as claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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